

NSC BRIEFING

20 October 1959

KHRUSHCHEV

- I. Since I last briefed the Council on 1 October, Khrushchev has been spending much of his time capitalizing on his US trip.
- A. From 4 through 10 October, for instance, he made an unprecedented junket across Siberia en route home from Peiping.
1. He visited:
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| Vladivostok | - principal Pacific port |
| Irkutsk | - important industrial outpo ^S st
on Trans-Siberian railroad |
| Bratsk | - where world's largest hydro-
electric stations is being
built |
| Krasnoyarsk | - major industrial center |
| Novosibirsk | - largest city in Siberia |
- B. Trip was combination of political barnstorming and a victory parade for his US trip.
- II. His five major speeches in Siberia, in effect, set line as to what Soviet people could expect from his trip to United States.
- A. Throughout, he showed concern that Soviet people might become so optimistic about reduction of world tensions that they would expect relaxation of domestic pressures and rapid improvement in living conditions.
- B. His repeated injunctions about need for hard work and pessimistic remarks on price reductions and private ownership of automobiles made it clear that higher living standards will not be achieved easily.

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C. Similarly, stress on superiority of "socialism" and references to "forces" in US working to continue the cold war put Soviet people on notice that regime will permit no ideological compromises.

III. In last stages of trip, Khrushchev's speeches became more tendentious.

A. For first time since his American visit, he did not include favorable comments about President Eisenhower.

B. His reference to "poison of bourgeois ideas" suggests there will be no significant breakthrough of Soviet barriers to exchange of press and radio information.

IV. On other hand, Khrushchev's generally moderate tone, omission of references to Berlin and other hot spots, and admission that US visit produced warmer international climate were intended to convey impression to Soviet people that new phase in US-Soviet relations has begun.

V. One theme pervaded all Khrushchev's speeches: strength and accomplishments of Soviet Union and superiority of Communist system.

A. Khrushchev asserted that West is forced to recognize Soviet power and to deal with it as equal. Launching of moon rocket, he said, proved to world maturity of Soviet people.

B. At Vladivostok, Khrushchev also showed his continuing sensitivity to criticism that new Soviet proposal for general and complete disarmament does not provide for effective control. He declared flatly that the USSR favors "strictest" control, strongly took issue with those who deny this, but in reality took control question no further than he had in his speech before United Nations on 18 September.

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C. Khrushchev again stated his expectation of an early summit conference.

VI. Soviet scene has been relatively quiet since Khrushchev returned to Moscow on 10 October. He has been spending considerable time with foreign dignitaries and ambassadors and is probably reviewing both his US and China trips with his top advisors.

A. We note that Khrushchev has still alluded only in passing to his Peiping visit. At press conference in Moscow on 15 October, in answer to correspondent's question, he said he felt China "fully and completely agrees with us" on issues of disarmament and peaceful coexistence.

VII. One of few specific moves USSR has made in recent weeks concerns consumer goods.

A. Government issued decree on 15 October calling for 42 percent increase in output of consumer durable goods over 1958 by the end of 1961.

B. Emphasis is on refrigerators, sewing machines, vacuum cleaners, television and radio sets, motorcycles, and a host of similar products. Automobiles are not included.

C. Decree apparently programs increases only slightly above high rates for the Seven Year Plan and covers only about five percent of Soviet industrial production. It will not affect investment in military programs.

D. Incidentally, Seven Year Plan has apparently started off well. During first nine months of this first year, industrial output is reported as 12 percent over corresponding period last year, while annual plan called for only a 7.7 percent increase.

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